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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 IO-13 CIAE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 ERDA-05
COME-00 /106 W
----------117638 290247Z /73
R 282227Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6553
INFO DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONGEN BELIZE
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS: MASS, GT, 09, BB
SUBJ: SEIZURE IN BARBADOS OF GUATEMALAN ARMS SHIPMENT

REF: A. BARBADOS 1500 (NOTAL; B. IR 6 838 0044 77 (DAO);
C. IR 6 838 0056 77 (DAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GOG HAS REACTED INDIGNANTLY TO JUNE 26 BARBADIAN SEIZURE OF ARMS SHIPMENT DESTINED FOR GUATEMALA. VICE-MINISTER OF DEFENSE COLONEL FEDERICO FUENTES CORADO TOLD PRESS JUNE 27 THAT "THE AUTHORITIES OF THE BRITISH COLONY (SIC) OF BARBADOS ILLEGALLY AND ABUSIVELY SEIZED A SHIPMENT OF ARMS DESTINED FOR THE ARMY OF GUATEMALA." FUENTES SAID THE ARMS AND 5.56 CALIBRE AMMUNITION WERE PURCHASED IN NATO COUNTRIES. SINCE THE ARMS SHIPMENT HAD ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK WITH IT, FUENTES CONJECTURED THAT THE SEIZURE WAS MADE "TO IRRITATE"
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THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT.

2. 2. ASKED WHY GUATEMALA WAS PURCHASING ARMS IN EUROPE FUENTES REPLIED IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE OBSTACLES AND RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON ARMS SALES BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD, HE SAID, HAD REJECTED THE PURCHASE OF ALL ARMS THAT HAD CONDITIONS ATTACHED (I.E., THE SUBMISSION

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TO CONGRESS OF A REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS).

3. FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA TOLD PRESS SAME DAY THAT GUATEMALA HAS INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON (WHERE BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS) TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO BARBADOS FOR THE RETURN OF THE SEIZED ARMS SHIPMENT. MOLINA SAID THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THE METHOD OF SHIPMENT AND THAT THE STOPOVER IN BARBADOS WAS TECHNICAL (PRESUMABLY FOR REFUELING). "TO SUPPLY ONESELF WITH ARMS IS NO CRIME FOR ANY GOVERNMENT; IT IS A CLEAR RIGHT. IT IS ALSO CLEAR IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THEREFORE WE CATEGORIZE THE ATTITUDE OF BARBADOS AS ABUSIVE. WE (ARE) CONFIDENT THAT THEY MUST RETURN THE ARMS TO US BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING SECRET, AND THE ARMS WERE SHIPPED CLEARLY CONSIGNED TO GUATEMALA." END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LOU. COMMENT: 5.56 AMMUNITION ABOARD AIRCRAFT MAY BE PURCHASE EMBASSY WAS TOLD HAD BEEN MADE IN PORTUGAL (REF B) BUT WHICH HAS NOT YET SHOWN UP IN COUNTRY.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONFISCATION, ARMS SHIPMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
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SAS ID: 2011873
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Subject: SEIZURE IN BARBADOS OF GUATEMALAN ARMS SHIPMENT
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